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Letter dated 2 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the ceasefire agreement signed on 17 October 2002 in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, and to inform you of the following in my dual capacity as Ambassador of Senegal and Representative of the current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

As the mediator of the Bouaké talks, my Government intends to reconfirm its commitment to participate in the ECOWAS interposition force in Côte d'Ivoire and to command it, since Senegal has agreed to provide the largest contingent (650 soldiers), alongside contingents from Benin, Ghana, the Niger and Togo.

It is therefore up to ECOWAS to take all the necessary measures, in the light of the expected outcome of the Lomé talks, for the deployment of the interposition force to replace the French troops, who have been nothing less than outstanding in carrying out such a delicate mission pursuant to the signing of the Bouaké agreement.

As the current Chairman of ECOWAS, Senegal would like once again to pay tribute to the Community's European, North American and other partners, including the United Nations and the African Union for their dynamic and highly appreciated assistance. In that regard, Senegal welcomes the rapid and responsible response of France, the presence of whose troops in Côte d'Ivoire, with the agreement of the parties, helped to avoid a tragedy and preserve the still fragile chances for peace.

In establishing the West African interposition force, Senegal knows that it can rely on the United Nations, especially the Security Council and the Secretary-General, to effectively support the joint efforts of Ivorians and ECOWAS so that all the parties can contribute to restoring peace in Côte d'Ivoire and bringing about national reconciliation.

(*Signed*) Papa Louis **Fall**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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